

ADAM EXTON

1823-1887

At the age of eight Adam Exton was put to work in a cotton mill, and he gave his wages to his parents and used his overtime earnings to attend night school. He arrived in New York in 1842 and was hired by a Quaker farmer near Trenton. In 1846, with his wife, he started a bread cake and cracker bakery. After 1850 he baked only crackers. Exton constructed machinery to eliminate hand molding. In the 1890's, at the New Jersey State Fair, barrels of his crackers were opened for people to sample. Henceforth, homesick Jerseymen around the world have yearned for the unique handbaked round "oyster stew" crackers.